

Application No. 10/717,729
Amendment dated MAY 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 as indicated:

The use of solidification technology and solid block detergents in institutional and industrial operations was pioneered in the SOLID POWER® brand technology disclosed and claimed in Fernholz et al., U.S. Reissue Pat. Nos. 32,763 ~~32,762~~ and 32,818. Additionally, sodium carbonate hydrate cast solid products using substantially hydrated sodium carbonate materials was disclosed in Heile et al., U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,595,520 and 4,680,134. In recent years attention has been directed to producing highly effective detergent materials from less caustic materials such as soda ash also known as sodium carbonate. It was found, and disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,258,765, 6,156,715, 6,150,324, and 6,177,392, that a solid block functional material can be made using a binding agent that includes a carbonate salt, an organic acetate or phosphonate component and water. Each of these different solidification technologies has certain advantages and disadvantages. There is an ongoing need to provide alternative solidification technologies within the art.